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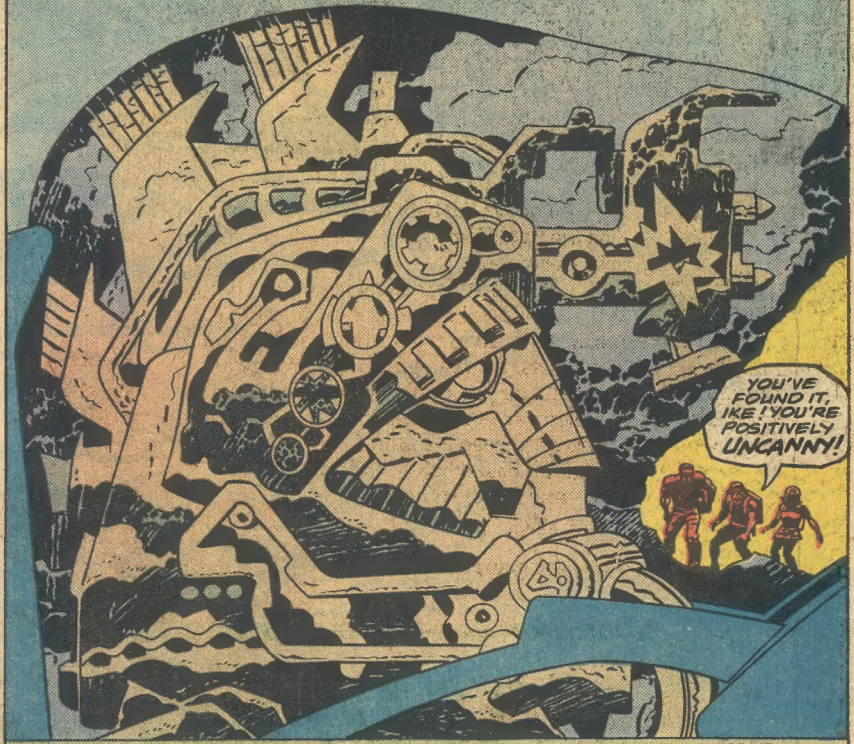
WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!
THE ETERNALS™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WE'VE FOUND IT-- THE TOMB OF THE SPACE GODS!
AND THEY'RE NOT DEAD! LOOK TO THE STARS!
THE GODS ARE COMING BACK!
FIRST ISSUE!
THE START OF JACK KIRBY'S LONG-AWAITED COSMIC SERIES!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE ETERNALS!**™

IS MAN ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE? EVERY MYTH AND LEGEND TO EMERGE FROM THE DISTANT PAST POINTS TO A STRANGE VISITATION FROM THE STARS!! BEINGS OF GREAT POWER HAVE BEEN ON THIS EARTH—AND THEN DEPARTED! WHO WERE THEY? WHAT DID THEY DO HERE? WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? THESE AWESOME QUESTIONS CREATE THE BACKGROUND FOR THIS EXCITING NEW SAGA OF A DAY WHICH LIES AHEAD... THE DAY OF ANSWERS...

THE DAY OF THE GODS



CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY | INKED by JOHN VERPOORTEN | LETTERED BY GASPAR COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN CONSULTING EDITOR: MARV WOLFMAN

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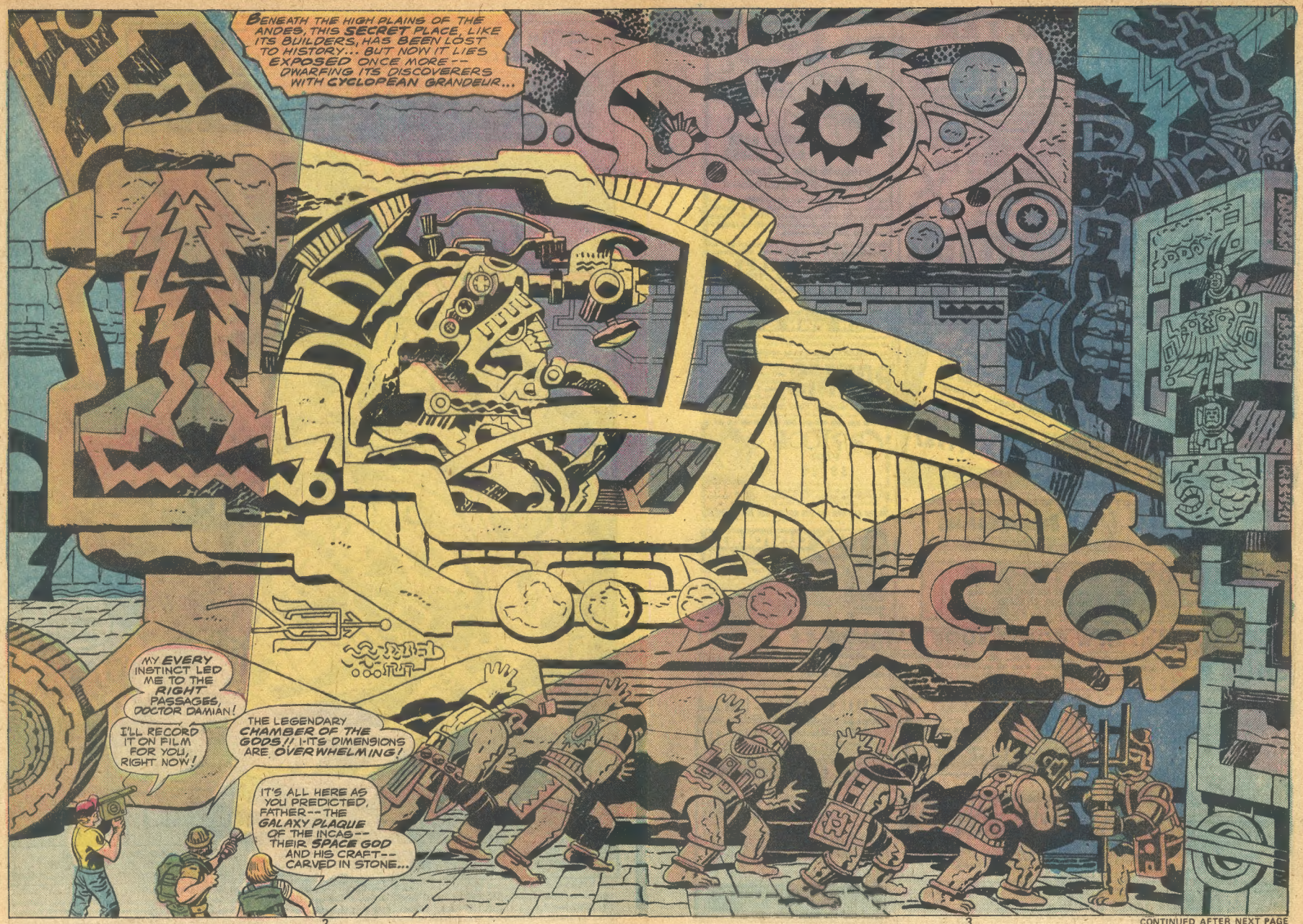

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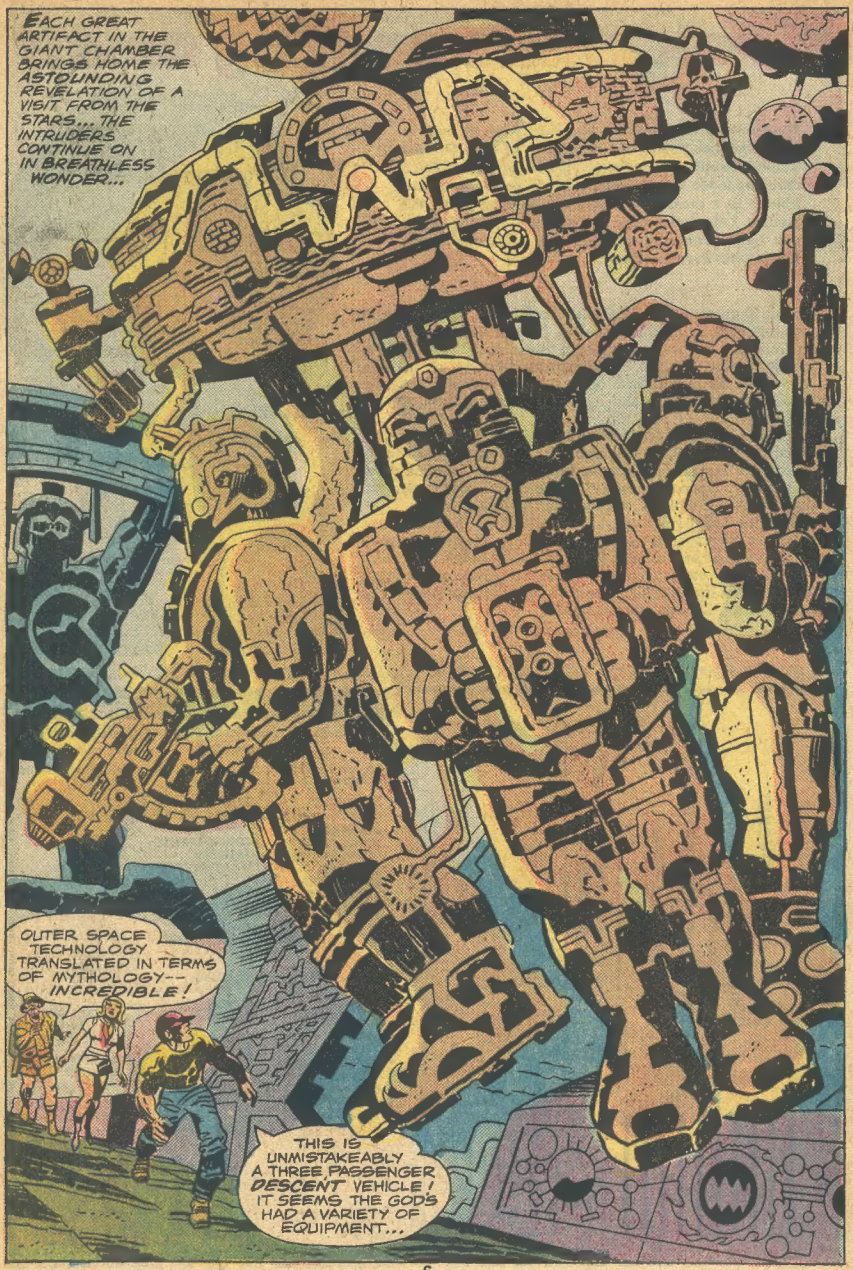
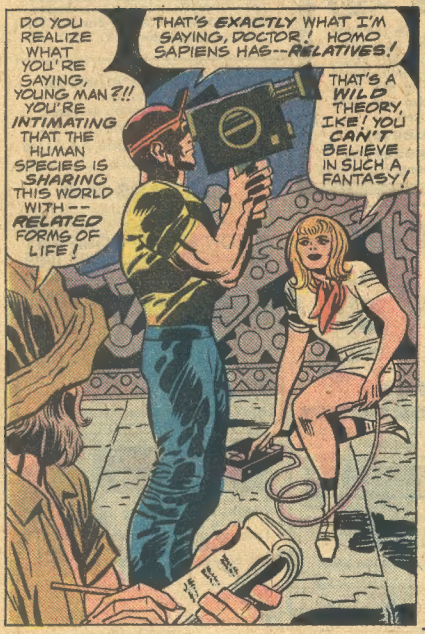

EACH GREAT ARTIFACT IN THE GIANT CHAMBER BRINGS HOME THE ASTOUNDING REVELATION OF A VISIT FROM THE STARS... THE INTRUDERS CONTINUE ON IN BREATHLESS WONDER...
OUTER SPACE TECHNOLOGY TRANSLATED IN TERMS OF MYTHOLOGY-- INCREDIBLE!
THIS IS UNMISTAKEABLY A THREE PASSENGER DESCENT VEHICLE! IT SEEMS THE GODS HAD A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT...



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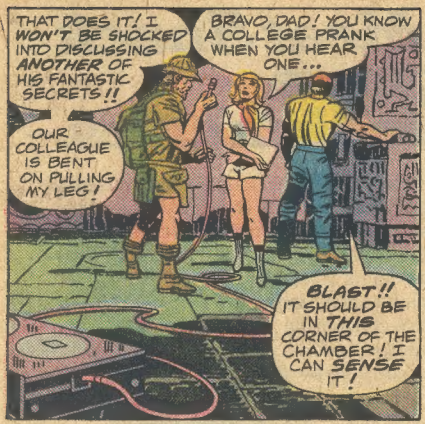
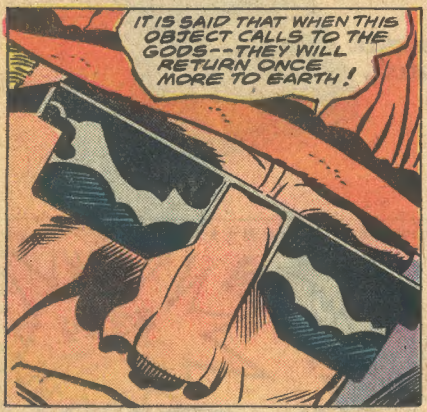
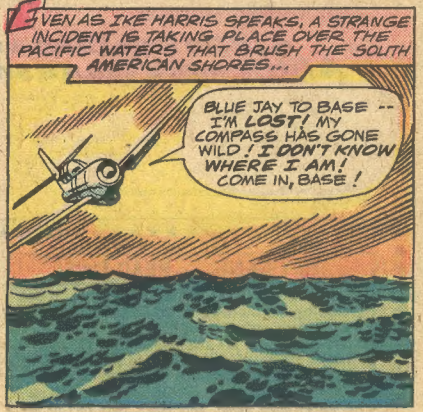
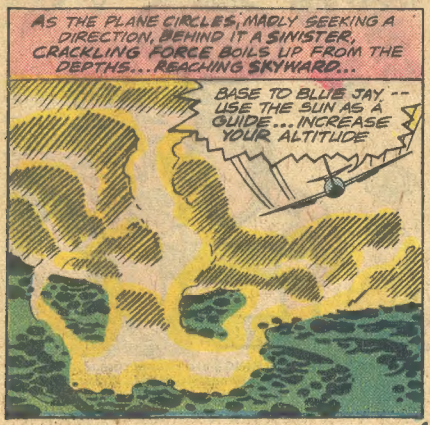
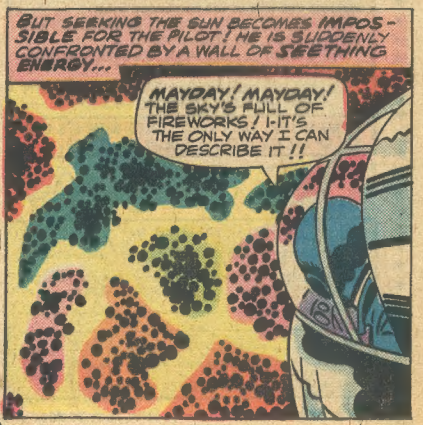

THAT DOES IT! I WON'T BE SHOCKED INTO DISCUSSING ANOTHER OF HIS FANTASTIC SECRETS!!
BRAVO, DAD! YOU KNOW A COLLEGE PRANK WHEN YOU HEAR ONE...
OUR COLLEAGUE IS BENT ON PULLING MY LEG!
BLAST!! IT SHOULD BE IN THIS CORNER OF THE CHAMBER! I CAN SENSE IT!

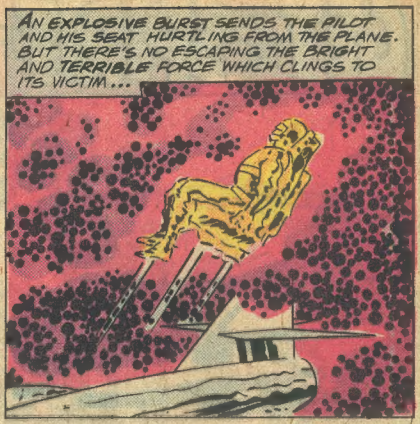
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HARRIS! WHAT ARE YOU HUNTING FOR NOW?
THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECT IN THIS CHAMBER, SIR-- IT CAN TURN MYTH INTO STARK REALITY!!

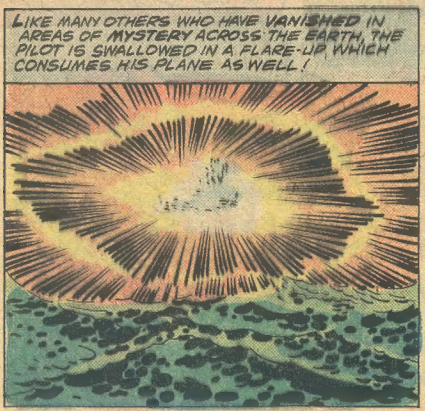

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THIS OBJECT CALLS TO THE GODS--THEY WILL RETURN ONCE MORE TO EARTH!

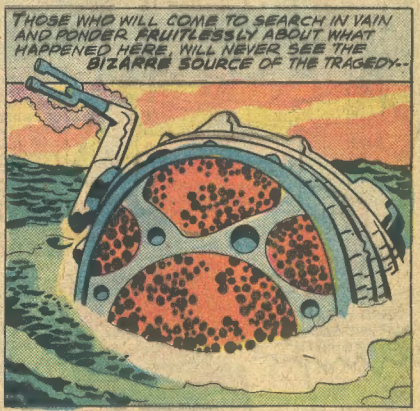

EVEN AS IKE HARRIS SPEAKS, A STRANGE INCIDENT IS TAKING PLACE OVER THE PACIFIC WATERS THAT BRUSH THE SOUTH AMERICAN SHORES...
BLUE JAY TO BASE -- I'M LOST! MY COMPASS HAS GONE WILD! I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM! COME IN, BASE!

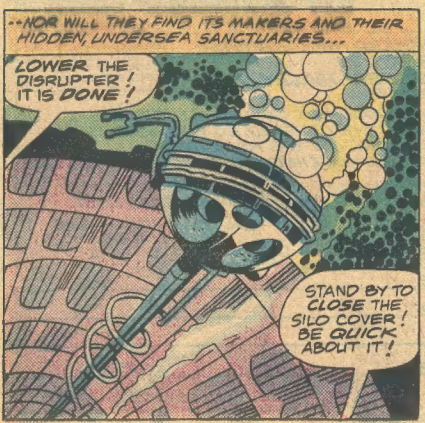

AS THE PLANE CIRCLES, MADLY SEEKING A DIRECTION, BEHIND IT A SINISTER, CRACKLING FORCE BOILS UP FROM THE DEPTHS... REACHING SKYWARD...
BASE TO BLUE JAY -- USE THE SUN AS A GUIDE... INCREASE YOUR ALTITUDE

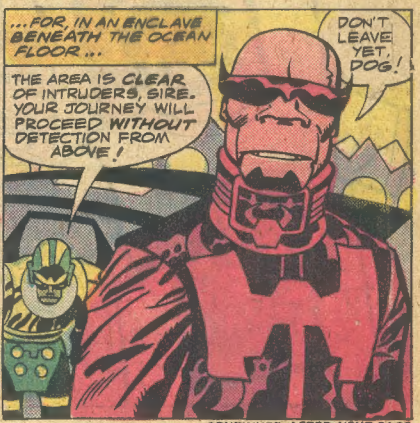

BUT SEEKING THE SUN BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PILOT! HE IS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY A WALL OF SEETHING ENERGY...
MAYDAY! MAYDAY! THE SKY'S FULL OF FIREWORKS! I-IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT!!











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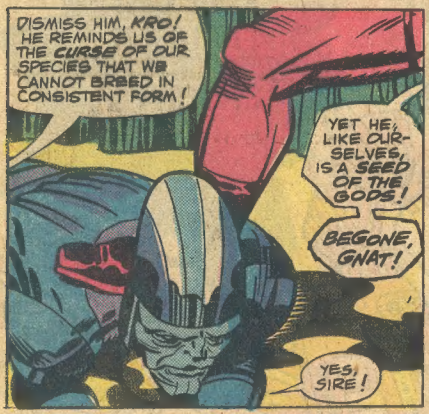
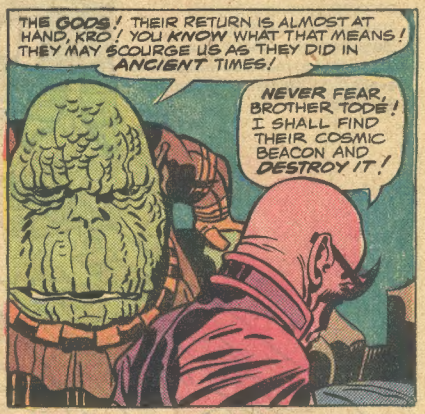
HERE WE FIND A GATHERING OF STRANGE BEINGS -- A ROYAL COURT OF THE GROTESQUE AND THE MISSHAPEN -- THE INHABITANTS OF A DOMAIN UNKNOWN TO MAN...
HE RESEMBLES A HUMAN... HE'S NOT LIKE US DEVIANTS AT ALL!
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IN WHOSE PRESENCE YOU ARE, DOG!
WE'RE PRODUCING MORE OF THESE UNSTABLE CREATURES EVERY DAY! NO TRUE DEVIANT WOULD FAIL TO GROVEL BEFORE THE RULING FAMILY!
I CRAVE YOUR PARDON, HIGH ONES!


DISMISS HIM, KRO! HE REMINDS US OF THE CURSE OF OUR SPECIES THAT WE CANNOT BREED IN CONSISTENT FORM!
YET HE, LIKE OURSELVES, IS A SEED OF THE GODS!
BEGONE, GNAT!
YES, SIRE!


THE GODS! THEIR RETURN IS ALMOST AT HAND, KRO! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! THEY MAY SCOURGE US AS THEY DID IN ANCIENT TIMES!
NEVER FEAR, BROTHER TODE! I SHALL FIND THEIR COSMIC BEACON AND DESTROY IT!

THEN HASTEN ON YOUR JOURNEY, KRO! GO TO THE INCA CHAMBER AND DO YOUR DUTY... THAT BEACON MUST NEVER BE ACTIVATED!
THE TRIP IS SHORT. MY TASK WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE HOUR!

COMPLACENT FOOL! YOU SPEAK LIKE THE HARE WHO SNEERS AT THE TORTOISE! THE ETERNALS MAY YET FIND THE BEACON BEFORE WE DO!
NONSENSE! THEY'VE FAILED AS WE HAVE! BUT THIS TIME, IT IS WE WHO SHALL SUCCEED!
THUS, I TAKE MY LEAVE!

SOON AFTER, AN UNDERSEA CRAFT SPEEDS FROM THE SUNKEN RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE PART OF A FABLED CITY... THE SURVIVORS OF THAT DISASTROUS BRUSH WITH THE GODS STILL QUAKE WITH THE MEMORY OF DOOMED LEMURIA...

TRAVEL AT MAXIMUM POWER! DEATH TO THE DEVIANT WHO LAGS AT HIS POST!

WE SHALL REACH THE INCA PASSAGE IN THE TIME YOU DESIRE, GREAT KRO!

THE GOD CHAMBER, AT THIS MOMENT, HAS REVEALED YET ANOTHER SURPRISE. MARGO DAMIAN AND HER FATHER TURN FROM THEIR TAPE RECORDING TO STARE IN WIDE-EYED WONDER AS A GREAT WALL PARTS TO DISPLAY A MIRROR-IMAGE OF DEEP SPACE...

MARGO! LOOK! IKE HARRIS' AMAZING INSTINCTS HAVE UNCOVERED SOME SORT OF TELESCOPIC GADGETRY!

THE INCAS DON'T CONCERN ME NOW, DAD! I-IT'S IKE HARRIS WHO FRIGHTENS ME!

BUT THE INCAS WEREN'T ADVANCED ENOUGH TO HAVE BUILT ANYTHING THAT COMPLEX!

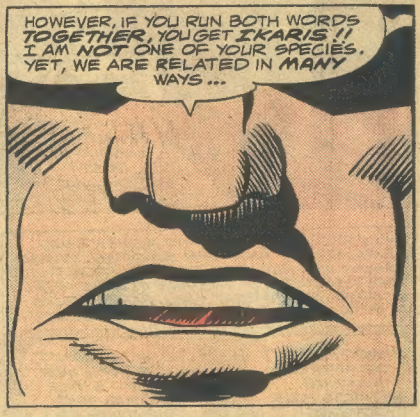
H-HE'S NEITHER A KOOK NOR A PRANKSTER! I-I THINK HE KNOWS THINGS WE CAN'T EVEN GUESS AT! IKE IS NOT ANY ORDINARY MAN!

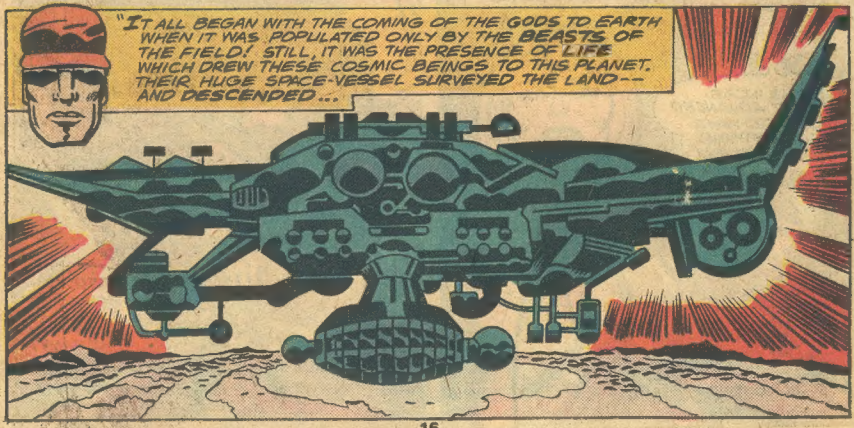
BEHOLD! THE UNIVERSE! THE VAST HOME OF THE GODS!!

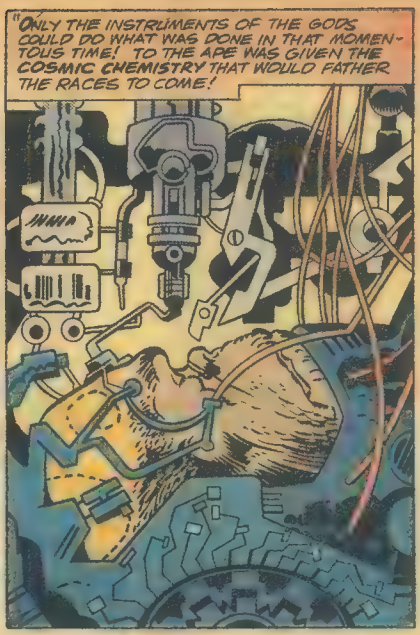
THERE THEY ROAM... THERE THEY LIVE! IN THIS GREAT REFLECTOR WHICH THE GODS LEFT WHEN THEY LAST DEPARTED, THE DEVOTED INCA PEOPLE KEPT WATCH FOR THEIR NEXT ARRIVAL... BUT THE GODS NEVER RETURNED... AND THE INCAS VANISHED FROM HISTORY!

KEEP GOING, IKE! TELL US MORE! BUT FIRST--TELL US WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
Y-YOU'RE NOT ONE OF US-- A-ARE YOU?

IKE HARRIS SEEMS TO PROJECT THE SILENT POWER OF THE GOD CHAMBER ITSELF! BOTH MARGO AND HER FATHER REALIZE THAT HE'S SOMEHOW, A PART OF THE AWESOME TRUTHS UNFOLDING HERE...
SPARE US, NOTHING! WE'VE GOT TO KNOW!
BEGIN WITH YOUR NAME... IT'S NOT IKE HARRIS-- IS IT?
NOT EXACTLY!


HOWEVER, IF YOU RUN BOTH WORDS TOGETHER, YOU GET IKARIS!! I AM NOT ONE OF YOUR SPECIES. YET, WE ARE RELATED IN MANY WAYS...


"IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE COMING OF THE GODS TO EARTH WHEN IT WAS POPULATED ONLY BY THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD! STILL, IT WAS THE PRESENCE OF LIFE WHICH DREW THESE COSMIC BEINGS TO THIS PLANET. THEIR HUGE SPACE-VESSEL SURVEYED THE LAND-- AND DESCENDED...



"IN THIS MANNER, THE DAWN APE BECAME THE COMMON ANCESTOR OF THREE POWERFUL NEW SPECIES...

"THE DEVIANT! AN EVER-CHANGING AND DESTRUCTIVE FAILURE.

"THE HUMAN! THIS SPECIES BRED WITH TRUE BALANCE OF STRUCTURE AND DISPOSITION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS A DESTROYER, THE HUMAN WAS CAPABLE OF BUILDING FOR PEACE.

"THE ETERNAL! HE WAS MORE A CHILD OF THE GODS THAN OF EARTH... HE REACHED FOR THE UNIVERSE!

STRUCTURALLY UNSTABLE, EACH NEW GENERATION OF DEVIANT APPEARED IN NEW AND MONSTROUS WAYS. HIS LOT WAS CONSTANT WAR.

HIS KIND WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE EARTH. HE BELONGED TO IT.

THE ETERNALS BRED FEW IN NUMBER AND WERE IMMUNE TO TIME AND DEATH! LIKE THE GODS, THEY LIVED APART FROM ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS.

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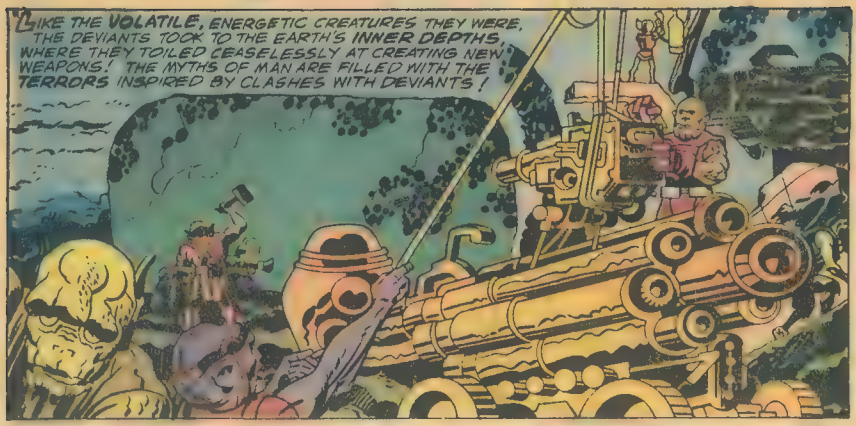
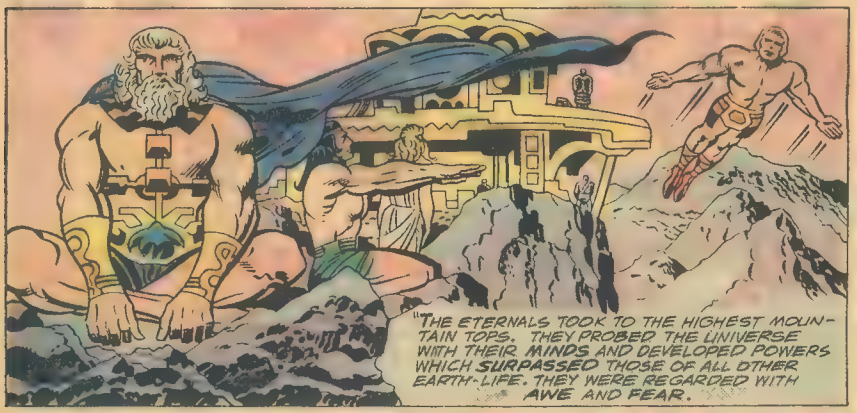
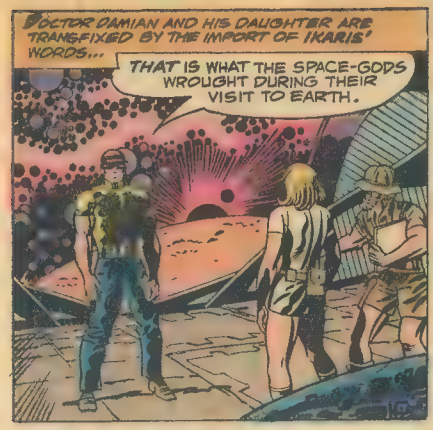
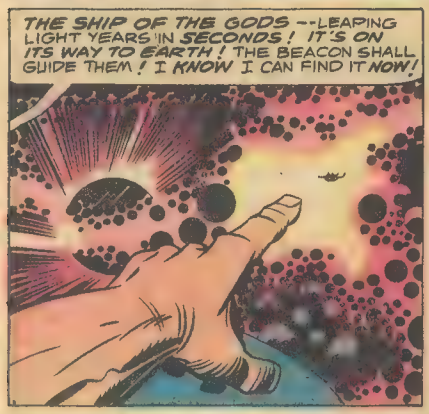
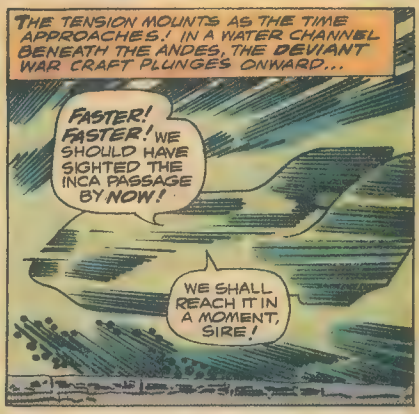

LIKE THE VOLATILE, ENERGETIC CREATURES THEY WERE, THE DEVIANTS TOOK TO THE EARTH'S INNER DEPTHS, WHERE THEY TOILED CEASELESSLY AT CREATING NEW WEAPONS! THE MYTHS OF MAN ARE FILLED WITH THE TERRORS INSPIRED BY CLASHES WITH DEVIANTS!

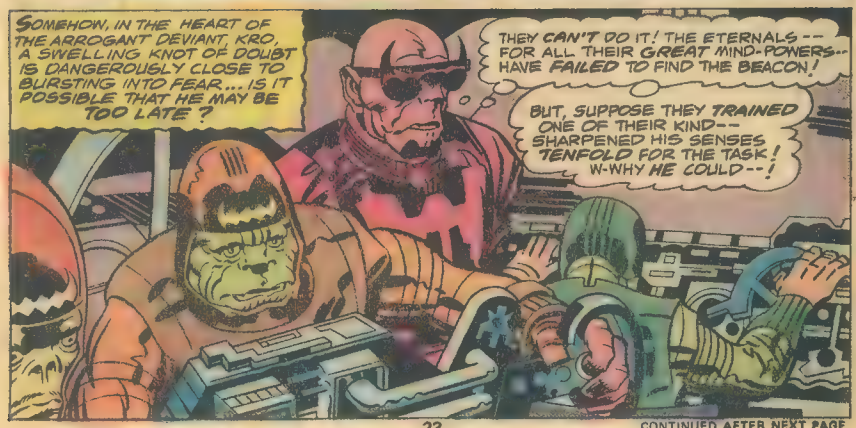

"THE ETERNALS TOOK TO THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN TOPS. THEY PROBED THE UNIVERSE WITH THEIR MINDS AND DEVELOPED POWERS WHICH SURPASSED THOSE OF ALL OTHER EARTH-LIFE. THEY WERE REGARDED WITH AWE AND FEAR.

"AS FOR THE HUMAN, HE COLLIDED WITH NATURE, THE BEAST, AND HIS FELLOW MAN. HE SUBDUED THE EARTH AND MADE IT HIS HOME. ALTHOUGH HE STILL YEARNS FOR PEACE, HE LIVES WITH DANGERS THAT WOULD DESTROY ALL HE HAS CREATED!"









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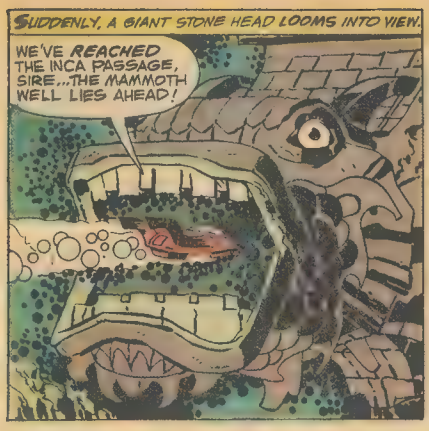
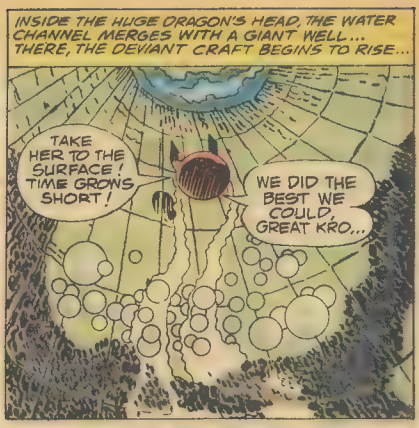
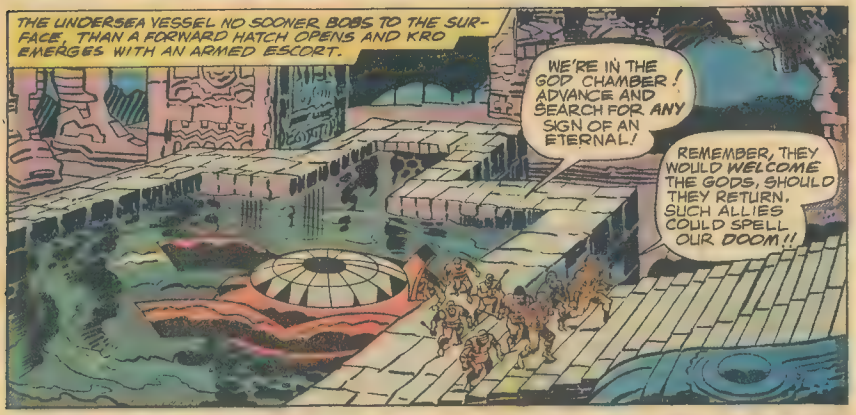
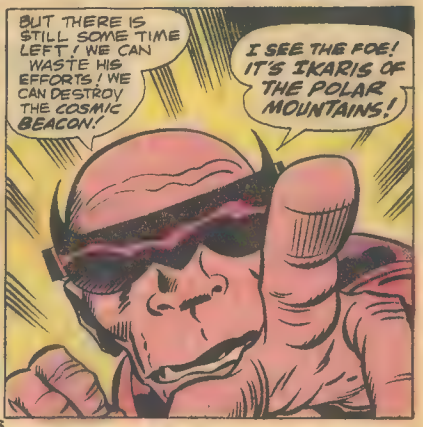
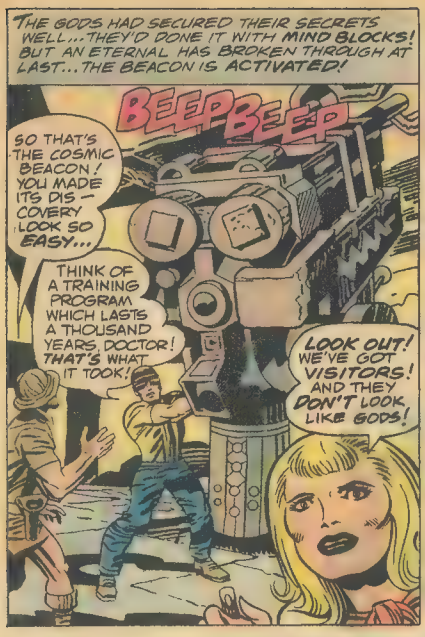

SUDDENLY, A GIANT STONE HEAD LOOMS INTO VIEW.
WE'VE REACHED THE INCA PASSAGE, SIRE...THE MAMMOTH WELL LIES AHEAD!

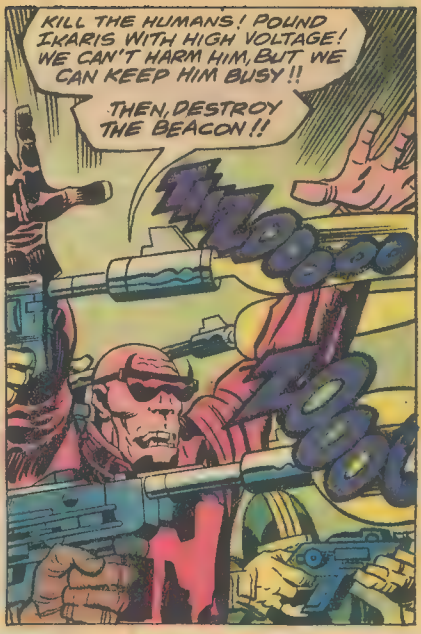

INSIDE THE HUGE DRAGON'S HEAD, THE WATER CHANNEL MERGES WITH A GIANT WELL... THERE, THE DEVIANT CRAFT BEGINS TO RISE...
TAKE HER TO THE SURFACE! TIME GROWS SHORT!
WE DID THE BEST WE COULD, GREAT KRO...


THE UNDERSEA VESSEL NO SOONER BOBS TO THE SURFACE, THAN A FORWARD HATCH OPENS AND KRO EMERGES WITH AN ARMED ESCORT.
WE'RE IN THE GOD CHAMBER! ADVANCE AND SEARCH FOR ANY SIGN OF AN ETERNAL!
REMEMBER, THEY WOULD WELCOME THE GODS, SHOULD THEY RETURN. SUCH ALLIES COULD SPELL OUR DOOM!!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
SIRE! LISTEN! WE'VE BEEN UNDONE! THAT IS SURELY THE SOUND OF THE COSMIC BEACON!
BY THE FLAMING PITS! AN ETERNAL HAS BEEN AT WORK HERE!


BUT THERE IS STILL SOME TIME LEFT! WE CAN WASTE HIS EFFORTS! WE CAN DESTROY THE COSMIC BEACON!
I SEE THE FOE! IT'S IKARIS OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS!





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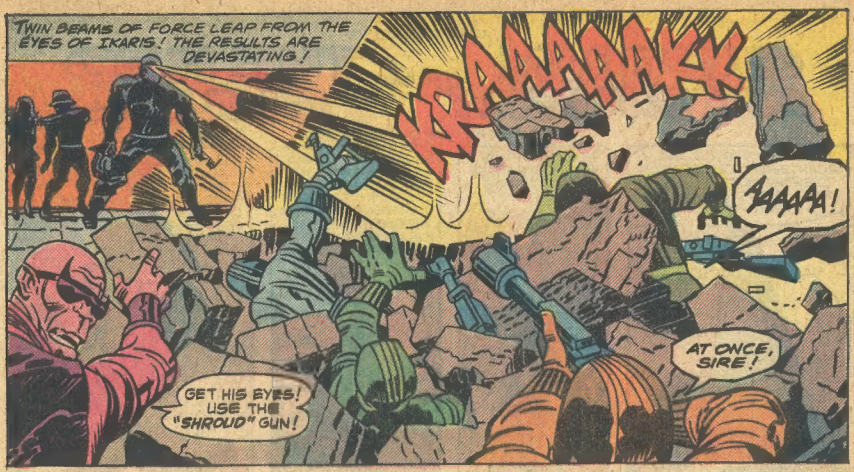
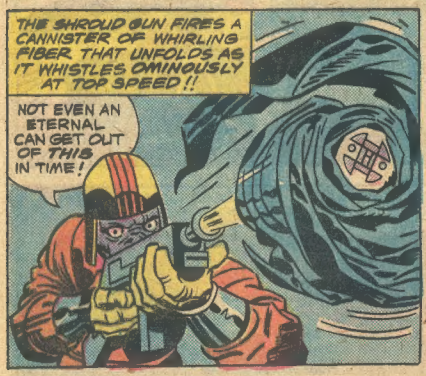
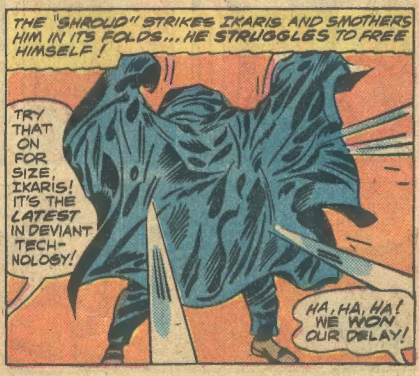
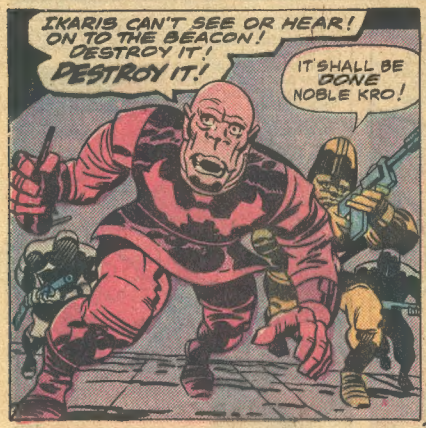

TWIN BEAMS OF FORCE LEAP FROM THE EYES OF IKARIS! THE RESULTS ARE DEVASTATING!
KRAAAAAKK
AAAAA!
AT ONCE, SIRE!
GET HIS EYES! USE THE "SHROUD" GUN!


THE SHROUD GUN FIRES A CANNISTER OF WHIRLING FIBER THAT UNFOLDS AS IT WHISTLES OMINOUSLY AT TOP SPEED!!
NOT EVEN AN ETERNAL CAN GET OUT OF THIS IN TIME!

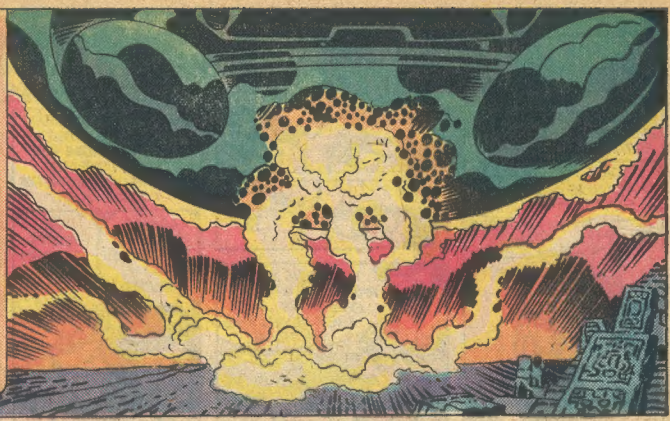

THE "SHROUD" STRIKES IKARIS AND SMOTHERS HIM IN ITS FOLDS... HE STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF!
TRY THAT ON FOR SIZE, IKARIS! IT'S THE LATEST IN DEVIANT TECH-NOLOGY!
HA, HA, HA! WE WON OUR DELAY!


IKARIS CAN'T SEE OR HEAR! ON TO THE BEACON! DESTROY IT! DESTROY IT!
IT SHALL BE DONE NOBLE KRO!

SUDDENLY, THE HUMANS RUSH INTO ACTION!
HOLD THEM, FATHER, WHILE I HELP IKARIS!
DON'T WORRY, MARGO! I'LL PICK OFF THOSE DEVIANTS AND HAVE THEM RUNNING FOR COVER!!
BAM!
BAM!

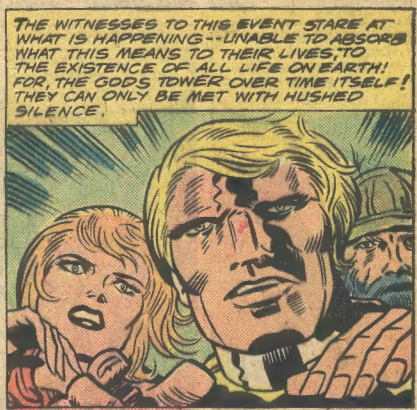
AT THAT MOMENT, THE ENTIRE PLANET SEEMS TO SHAKE FROM A MIGHTY SOUND WHICH HASN'T BEEN HEARD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!

A GIGANTIC SHADOW DARKENS THE PLAIN WHERE THE RUINS STAND. SOMETHING WHICH HAS SHATTERED TIME AND SPACE TO FIND A PEBBLE CALLED "EARTH"--NOW DESCENDS WITH OVERPOWERING MAJESTY!!



THE BATTLE IN THE GOD CHAMBER IS HALTED AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN SHOCKED INTO SILENCE, THE COMBATANTS SLOWLY EMERGE FROM THE RUIN.

THE WITNESSES TO THIS EVENT STARE AT WHAT IS HAPPENING--UNABLE TO ABSORB WHAT THIS MEANS TO THEIR LIVES, TO THE EXISTENCE OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH! FOR, THE GODS TOWER OVER TIME ITSELF! THEY CAN ONLY BE MET WITH HUSHED SILENCE.



THEN--THE SILENCE IS BROKEN.

IT IS SOMEHOW FITTING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF EARTH'S THREE DOMINANT RACES ARE ON HAND TO MEET THE MASTER IMAGE IMPRINTED ON THEIR GENES. WHAT DO THE GODS LOOK LIKE? WHAT CAN THEY DO TO AN UNSUSPECTING EARTH?

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GODS--GET THE NEXT ISSUE!! READ THE

Celestials From Space!

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Will The Gods Return Someday?

If they truly exist, I believe they will. Of course, I speak of Gods in the historical sense, the kinds of beings who step ashore from places unknown and impress us with their very images, their manner of communication, and, above all, their display of transcendent power.

The Aztecs, who outnumbered the forces of Cortez by astronomical odds, were completely cowed by the sight of the Spaniard's horse and the effects of his cannon. Were they overcome by their own fear of the supernatural—or were they awed by what they viewed as the fulfillment of their own prophecy—the return of Quetzalcoatl and his band of super-beings, whose memory survived antiquity?

In my own recollection of the early jungle pictures, there was nothing more stupefying to the chattering natives of remote areas, than the sudden appearance of the movie's hero, whose "big white bird" had crash-landed in the center of the village.

Sure, they made him a God. And, if it had really happened, those natives would still be weaving tales about him today.

However, my point is, how often has this kind of thing happened in our past? How many of these so-called *Gods* have stumbled upon this boondock planet called Earth? How many of them have inspired the potent myths which not only laid the groundwork for man's many religions, professions, and sciences, but have left man with a massive mystery on his hands—one that just won't go away...

With the daily accumulation of new artifacts all over the globe, and the simultaneous input of UFO "flapology" on a worldwide scale, humankind is straining its "group memory" to dredge up a proper picture of the ancient past, in order to deal with the provocative incidents of contemporary issue.

The compelling quality inherent in this type of theme has led me to project its mystifying questions into comic magazine storytelling. It's *natural* for myself and for the comics fan who dearly loves the world that lies between fantasy and fact. We are, in a word, "sympatico."

Still, despite the fact that I've contrived my own version of those momentous confrontations of prehistory, I take them from the *de facto* questions of today.

What did happen in those remote days of men's early struggle for civilized status? What is the true meaning of the myths which shared a global similarity among diverse peoples? Did beings of an extra terrestrial nature touch down among us and influence our lives to this present day? And then, the all-important question of the lot—are these beings in some cosmic orbit which will lead them back to us someday?

The excitement generated by this last question is undeniable. It leads directly to ourselves, and to how we will react to their arrival. The grab bag of possibilities is a limitless spectrum of spine-tingling visions. They inspire everything from elation to paranoia.

At any rate, we can do nothing but sense the air of this century and look aloft, or listen for sounds not made on this world—or read THE ETERNALS for the vicarious thrill of anticipating, in story and pictures, the astounding experience of coming to grips with the kinds of creatures we imagine the Gods to be. Hey, if you're reading this, you're doing it!

--Jack Kirby

scanned by *Wizard*